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# SCIENCE

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## A GEOLOGIC FORECAST OF THE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR RACE<sup>1</sup>

To those organizations that are struggling with the presidential problem, from Central American republics to social clubs, one may cordially recommend the unique practise of this association, for the adroitness with which it makes the presidential office go twice as far as is usual, while at the same time it reduces the hazard of the association to the lowest terms. Near the close of an annual session a president is chosen and is at once permitted to enter upon the annual functions of the office by attaching his signature to certificates of membership, which it is assumed he is competent at once to do, but he does not enter upon any conspicuous or presentative functions so unpreparedly; the retiring president holds the stage for the succeeding year. At the next annual session, after a year of manual practise exercised on relays of certificates that come at close intervals, the incoming president is formally introduced to the association and assumes the chair. During this session he responds to addresses of welcome and presides over the general sessions of the association with as much grace and dignity as he may be able to command, but beyond this he has no specific occasion, nor does the association assume any responsibility, for anything that might betray scientific attainments or the possession of opinions. Near the close of the session, a new president is chosen, and the active president enters upon his career as retiring presi-

<sup>1</sup> Address of the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, December 27, 1909.